

Unit Five
The Age of Jackson

AP History

Readings:

Text, Chapters 13-15

Handouts

Conflict and Consensus, volume 1, Schlesinger, Jr., “Jacksonian Democracy vs. The Business Community”

Conflict and Consensus, volume 1, Pessen, “Consensus and Ideology in the Age of Jackson”

Themes:

- The emergence of the second American party system.
- The emergence of the “Common Man” in American politics.
- Geographical and economic expansion.
- Reform movements and the American character.

Content:

Election of 1824 and the founding of Jackson’s Democratic Party

Jackson’s Administration

- Spoils System
- Nullification
- Bank War
- Cherokee Removal

Manifest Destiny and the War with Mexico

Immigration; social, political, and economic developments; and reform movements, 1820-1850

Major Assignments and Assessments:

Groups create “Pictorial Essays” on one of the following social developments during the 1820s-1850s:

- Scientific and technological developments
- Transportation and sectional interdependence
- Labor and labor organizations
- Social reforms and reformers
- Utopian societies
- Religious developments
- Immigration

Simulated debate over Jackson’s veto of the Second National Bank of the United States.

DBQ: Cherokee Removal or Jacksonian Democracy

Outline:

- I. Age of Jackson, 1828-1848
 - 1. Democracy and the “common man”
 - i. Expansion of suffrage
 - ii. Rotation in office
 - 2. Second party system
 - i. Democratic Party
 - ii. Whig Party
 - 3. Internal improvements and states’ rights: the Maysville Road veto
 - 4. The Nullification Crisis
 - i. Tariff issue
 - ii. The Union: Calhoun and Jackson
 - 5. The Bank War: Jackson and Biddle
 - 6. Martin Van Buren
 - i. Independent treasury system
 - ii. Panic of 1837
- II. Territorial Expansion and Sectional Crisis
 - 1. Manifest Destiny and mission
 - 2. Texas annexation, the Oregon boundary, and California
 - 3. James K. Polk and the Mexican War; slavery and the Wilmot Proviso
 - 4. Later expansionist efforts
- III. Creating an American Culture
 - 1. Cultural nationalism
 - 2. Education reform/professionalism
 - 3. Religion; revivalism
 - 4. Utopian experiments: Mormons, Oneida Community
 - 5. Transcendentalists
 - 6. National literature, art, architecture
 - 7. Reform crusades
 - i. Feminism; roles of women in the nineteenth century
 - ii. Abolitionism
 - iii. Temperance
 - iv. Criminals and the insane